

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

...- V ...-

Food production, Victory Gardens, 8-point dairy program, farm labor, and post-war planning are features of this week's summary.

...- V ...-

KENTUCKY
February 15, 1944

Food production.--State-wide program is already in progress to encourage production of more food on farms and in towns and cities. Farm families are asked to produce as nearly as possible their entire food supply, as against 75 percent last year. Town and city people are asked to increase size of gardens. Specially trained neighborhood leaders will pass along information on production of vegetables, fruit, poultry, and dairy products. Short course in vegetable growing was given at agricultural college. Series of weekly garden articles is being syndicated to all Kentucky newspapers and is widely published.

Poultry.--At 68 meetings of poultry keepers in January, attendance averaged 20. Kentucky expects to meet its goal of 3 percent more eggs.

Dairying.--Short course attended by 100 dairy fieldmen was held at agricultural college to develop ways of stimulating milk production. Eight-point program was presented and each fieldman assigned to assist one or two county agents in his territory to stimulate milk production. Each month 5,000 copies of "Timely Tips" will be distributed to dairy project leaders.

Better farming practices.--Contour farming meetings were scheduled in more than half of counties by engineering department of college to train leaders to lay off contour furrows. Last year 2,000 acres were cultivated on contour in Grant County. On 1,200 acres of corn, farmers reported increased yields of 8 bushels an acre. On 800 acres of tobacco, average increase was about 125 pounds to acre.

Carlisle County farmers report good yield increase through use of phosphate. One farmer more than doubled hay crop, after applying 10 tons of rock phosphate. Another increased hybrid corn yield 8 bushels an acre by applying phosphate. County agent reports demand for phosphate is three times supply. Growing interest in hybrid corn is indicated by reports from Bath and Hickman Counties, where 85 and 70 percent respectively of entire corn acreage was in hybrid. Lespedeza hay

proved profitable in Lee County. One farmer bought steers, wintered them for lespedeza hay, pastured them on Korean lespedeza and other grasses. When sold at end of year they had averaged gain of 410 pounds at total profit of \$800.

Labor-saving methods.-Thinking farmers are working out ways to save equipment and labor. One central Kentucky cattle feeder cooperated with neighbor in hauling and spreading several tons of manure on each farm in short time by combining equipment of two tractors and spreaders as well as men. Results: Equipment kept moving almost constantly; lost time eliminated when equipment was idle; number of loads spread daily increased; and time required reduced.

Farm labor.-With more than 1,100 Kentucky women enrolled, interest in WLA continues to grow. Typical member is Mrs. C. E. Champion of Anderson County. She helped with crops in field and garden; canned 837 quarts of vegetables, fruits, and meats; helped strip tobacco; raised 200 chickens; and in addition had flock of bronze turkeys that sold for \$452. Mrs. Champion had time for community work also. For past 5 years she has been 4-H Club leader, and is president of her homemakers' club.

Members of 4-H Clubs furnished $\frac{1}{2}$ million hours of farm labor in 1943. Goal this year is $\frac{3}{4}$ million. McCracken County club members' work last year was reported to be equal to that of 75 men working 10 hours daily for 142 days. Allen Turner, 4-H Club member, who worked 740 hours in food production on his father's farm, then helped neighbors, was awarded \$25 war bond by county Farm Bureau.

Home sewing.-Home sewing is being urged as means of saving money and having better garments. Carroll County homemakers estimate they saved \$3,000 through sewing at home in 1943. Sewing-machine clinics, dress-form meetings, new tricks in mending and darning, and tailored finishes are creating much interest in home-sewing program.

Farm and Home Convention.-Thirty-second annual Farm and Home Convention was attended by 1,113 women and 946 men, representing 109 counties. Attendance almost doubled that of 1943, when 96 counties were represented, and almost equaled that of 1942. Many of talks were on war food production and conservation, and life under wartime conditions.

MISSOURI

February 23, 1944

8-point milk-production program.-Since late fall, extension dairymen have held meetings at key points in 38 counties to help county agents and local leaders push 8-point milk-production program. Emphasis was given to feed production, efficient use of feeds, and care and management of dairy cattle. Program was presented at eight meetings of dairy breed associations.

Herd of 50 Holstein cows on Vernie Wallace farm in Shelby County produced \$8,000 to \$10,000 worth of whole milk annually. This is one of highest producing upland farms in county. Wallace's chief concern in maintaining production record is providing adequate pasture. All his 150-acre farm has been limed. Legumes are used as green-manure crop preceding corn and Atlas sorgo grown for silage. His pasture system consists of permanent pasture for spring and late fall, lespedeza and Sudan grass for summer, small grain for fall and spring, first-year sweetclover for fall, and second-year clover for spring. His 12-acre field of alfalfa produced 3 tons of hay an acre last year.

Al V. Horner in Cole County was able to increase butterfat production in his herd of 15 dairy cows by 100 pounds average per cow last year by culling low producers and replacing with higher producers, lengthening pasture season to 270 days of good pasture a year, and better feeding. Other factors included giving cows warm water in winter, regularity in feeding and milking them, and feeding grain according to production. Balbo rye, bluegrass, white clover, lespedeza, and Sudan grass were used to get 270 days pasture.

Victory Gardens.-Missouri's 1944 Victory Garden campaign made early start on January 21, with State conference at Jefferson City, at which Governor designated second week in February as Victory Garden Week. Cities and towns in all parts of State were represented, and reports were heard from communities most successful in garden campaigns of 1943. Conference was beginning of intensive campaign, including newspaper stories and editorials, radio broadcasts, suggested advertisements for community newspapers, State-wide series of district conferences now in progress, and use of stereotype mats for publication of Missouri vegetable-planting calendar. To date 125 Missouri newspapers have requested mat and are printing 4-column table 15 inches deep, showing best varieties of recommended vegetables, ideal planting dates, spacing, depth, and amount of seed needed.

So effective was Victory Garden campaign in metropolitan area of St. Louis last year that 25,000 back-yard farmers produced trainload of vegetables--1,875 tons. Leadership was supplied by public and parochial schools, OCD block leaders, and members of St. Louis Horticultural Society. Large percentage of Victory gardeners within city limits had only small plots of poor soil often mixed with debris. Yet one-fourth of all families within city limits grew vegetables.

In Kansas City 60 percent of families last year produced Victory Gardens. Same plan of community organization will be used this year. Work was headed by schools. Each of city's 100 parent-teacher associations selected at least one member known in his own community as successful gardener, and he was given special training as garden leader. These leaders helped in preliminary meetings to interest families in home gardens and also gave individual assistance to neighbors throughout season.

Farm labor.-Little outside help was requested by Missouri farmers in December and January; yet many standing requests for year-round workers remain unfilled. Number of actual placements reached seasonal low ebb in December, and only 75 men were placed in January. These were moved from south Missouri to larger production units in north Missouri. During January, 421 of cotton pickers lent to Arizona were returned and rest were expected in February. Reports from Arizona indicate these workers helped greatly in harvesting important cotton crop, when cotton work is normally at standstill in Missouri.

Forms and instructions for State-wide survey of farm labor requirements and available workers were prepared and distributed to all county offices. Efforts were begun to obtain local leaders and sufficient help to carry on emergency farm labor program efficiently through 1944.

4-H Club work.-Fully 95 percent of work of 19,723 Missouri 4-H Club boys and girls last year was devoted to production and conservation of food, clothing, and other wartime essentials. In addition, 11,987 members bought war bonds and stamps, 10,849 collected scrap, and 8,746 helped neighbors with farm work. The 1,375 clubs were guided in their work by 3,804 adult voluntary leaders. Six counties had more than 400 members each.

MONTANA

March 1, 1944

Farm labor.--Detailed analysis regarding number of interstate domestic or foreign workers required for spring sugar beet operations has been completed in cooperation with sugar beet managers, their fieldmen, and county agents concerned.

At request of stockmen of larger livestock counties, meetings were held to determine needs for outside workers in lambing operations. For both these major activities, more workers will have to be brought from outside State than in 1943.

Post-war planning.--Arrangements have been completed for preparation of State report which will inventory probable agricultural situation at end of war and give suggestions for meeting situation. Included in report will be proposed food production in 1945. Attention was also given to post-war employment opportunities and State steering program during demobilization period. Conferences were held to facilitate cooperation with Forest Service during that time.

Farm crops.--Conferences were held with extension agents on bean and flax problems in 1944 food-production program. Plans for certification of seed were made in joint conferences with Montana Seed Growers' Association, directors, and county extension agents. Distribution has been made of 40,000 pounds of registered and approved Glacier barley and 17,000 pounds registered flax produced under supervision of Montana Experiment Station. Also 15,000 pounds of registered Ranger alfalfa seed has been allotted to 15 different States.

Total live weight of meat produced by Missouri 4-H Club members last year approximated 4 million pounds, or about 200 carloads. This volume of needed meat was produced in 5,625 individual 4-H projects--525 more than in 1942. For 1944 production record, now in making, even larger numbers of 4-H members are at work. Nodaway County leads with 80 baby beeves on feed, 50 sow and litter projects, and 70 ewe and lamb projects. Atchison County has 60 boys and girls enrolled in sow and litter projects. Solid block of 8 northwest Missouri counties has average of 27 beef projects, 23 sow and litter projects, and 21 ewe and lamb projects, per county.

Pork production.--Saving his pigs at farrowing time, using clean farrowing houses, and raising pigs on clean ground, Fred Houchin of Pettis County marketed 144 from 18 sows in 1943 as part of his contribution to Nation's wartime food supply. This record is 50 percent better than average of county. Houchin marketed 27 more pigs -- 6,534 more pounds of pork on hoof -- than average production of 18 cows. Average farrowing date was March 1, and pigs were marketed on October 26 at average weight of 242 pounds a head. They had been double-treated against cholera and were fed on bluegrass and clover pasture.

Home-economics clubs.--With 840 rural homemakers enrolled last year, Carroll County led State in number of members of home-economics extension clubs. Workers were enthusiastic and attended county meetings in large numbers. More than 500 attended county achievement day program in Carrollton in November. Besides canning 238,362 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meat for their own families, home-economics club members served as leaders in food-production campaigns, sponsored 4-H Clubs, and were active in war work.

Livestock.-Questions of wartime livestock production were discussed at conference with extension agents. Circular letters were sent to county agents on livestock and feed balance, current feed supplies, and parasite control. Two meetings for discussion of livestock-production problems were attended by 193 producers.

Irrigation.-Conference sessions were devoted to plans for helping irrigation farmers to accomplish maximum food production in 1944; also preliminary plans to meet post-war shortage during irrigation season.

Soil conservation.-Two meetings were held to explain soil conservation program. Assistance was given one board of supervisors in preparation of district plan.

